

Multi-Stakeholder 'Waste' Recovery Platform

GHANA



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WASTE RECOVERY PLATFORM



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WHICH CHALLENGES
TRIGGERED THE IDEA OF
CREATING A PLATFORM?

Addressing a complex development challenge...



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- 30,000 tonnes solid waste generated daily in Ghana
 - ✓ an average of 0.47kg per person daily
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of waste discarded in public dumps or burnt
 - ✓ Huge differences in services rural-to-urban
- 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste generated daily
 - ✓ less than 2% is collected for recycling
- 86% of waste generated are readily recoverable
 - ✓ Valued at 83 billion GHC per annum



... which has multi-dimensional impacts



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- Poor sanitation and flooding
- Human health, including air and water pollution
- Impacts for livestock and marine life
- Well-being and appearance of the city (focus on Clean Accra City etc.)

However... (1)

- **Local government** institutions have the responsibility but not adequate **data/information** nor the **financial resources** to effectively plan for and implement sustainable and innovative waste management solutions;
- **Private sector actors interested in recovering waste** face challenges in:
 - securing feedstock, segregated and in the required quantities in a timely fashion
 - policy uncertainties (will plastic be banned) with few opportunities to connect with decision makers to problem solve
 - financing challenges and making the case to banks
 - accessing data
- **Informal sector** waste pickers perform valuable functions, including potentially for formal sector waste providers, but face a lack of adequate information and uncertainties regarding market demand and prices and benefitting from better opportunities.



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However... (2)

- **Investors** struggle to get big picture information on policy and data and connect to operators along the chain;
- **Research institutions and even private sector** are increasingly coming up with and testing innovative solutions but no systematic process to go from lab tests and pilots to engaging with standards and relevant authorities to help inform policies;
- **Partnerships** across key stakeholders along the waste management chain are emerging but are weak;
- **Development Partners**: typically provide support through initiatives and stand alone projects with different ministries depending upon the entry point.

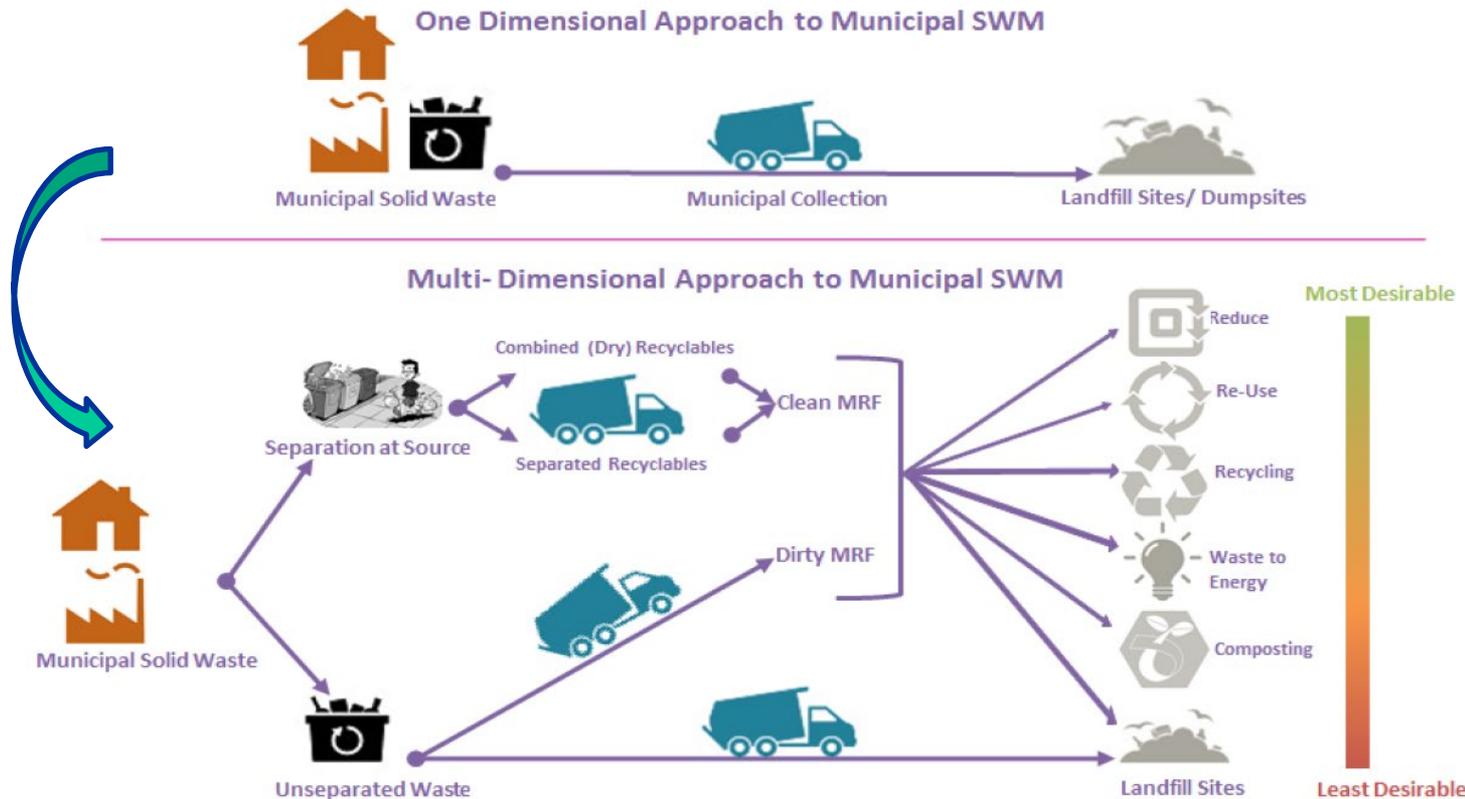


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So, how to go from a **linear** waste management to a waste recovery and **circular economy** approach?



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*The solutions and the knowledge to promote waste recovery are distributed and lie with different people who currently do not have a structured way to connect. Knowledge gaps and uncertainties with regard to policy and waste streams make **investment/ borrowing by the private sector which could take advantage of this opportunity risky***

What if...



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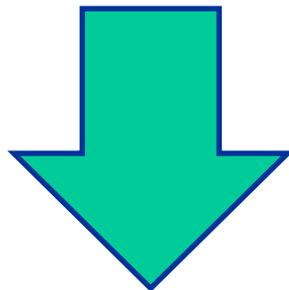
- Local governments, academia, private sector and all relevant stakeholders could be connected through a shared platform to **coordinate** better?
- There could be a focus on advocacy and **behavioural change** towards new ways of doing **production and consumption** to transition to a **circular economy**?
- We could go from waste as a **problem** to waste recovery as an **opportunity to enhance local development sustainably and create jobs**?

What if...



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- Financial authorities could get a more nuanced understanding of **business opportunities** across the waste value chain?
- Waste users and waste producers could interact, including through more structured **online market places**?
- **New technologies**, research findings and resources could reach those who are looking for ways to productively re-use materials and test technologies for different waste streams and researchers could engage more systematically with policy makers and standards setters?





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WHAT IS THE WASTE RECOVERY PLATFORM?

Ghana Waste Recovery Platform

The Aim - CONNECT



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Objective: connect key stakeholders in the waste management value chain to promote waste recovery in a larger circular economy context, in a bid to find sustainable solutions to waste management challenges in Ghana.

Enabling a Circular Economy for Sustainable (socio-economic) Development



Increased material recovery - job creation – behaviour change – increased investment

FEATURES OF THE PLATFORM

Feature 1

Physical Convening mechanism



Feature 3

Innovation promotion
through the Waste Recovery
Innovation Challenge

WASTE RECOVERY PLATFORM

Feature 2

Digital Platform with
Website and Mobile Application
to increase data access and
information exchange

Feature 4

Communication and
Advocacy for policy &
behavioral change

(1) The Platform is ...



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A **PHYSICAL convening mechanism** that brings all the stakeholders together to:

- discuss issues of common interest related to waste management;
- exchange knowledge and share best practices;
- co-design, co-develop or partner to find solutions.



7 September 2018



16 April 2019

(2) The Platform is...



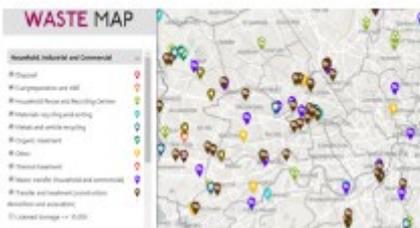
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An innovative **DIGITAL platform** that provides real time information/data on waste management and facilitate material exchange → connecting the dots!



The Platform
(website)

Database of data and stakeholders
Library of Recovery Technologies
Exchange of Ideas, Events & More



The Waste
Resource Map

Real time data on locations of
waste resource and industry
players



The Mobile App
(Uber for recycling)

"Waste" Materials Trading

Upcoming website link: www.ghanawasteplatform.org

(3) The Platform is ...



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A promoter of **INNOVATION**

**‘Waste’ Recovery Innovation
Challenge**

- Support **businesses**
- Support **research projects**
- Support **advocacy/awareness
creation projects**



From waste to fuels



From waste to blocks



Doing research on new technologies

(4) The Platform is ...

A resource to **advocate** for mainstreaming of circular economy and create **awareness** for **behavioral change** needed to make waste recovery systems effective.



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Advocating for the SDGs



Beach clean up exercise

The Platform aims to promote a shift towards circular economy by

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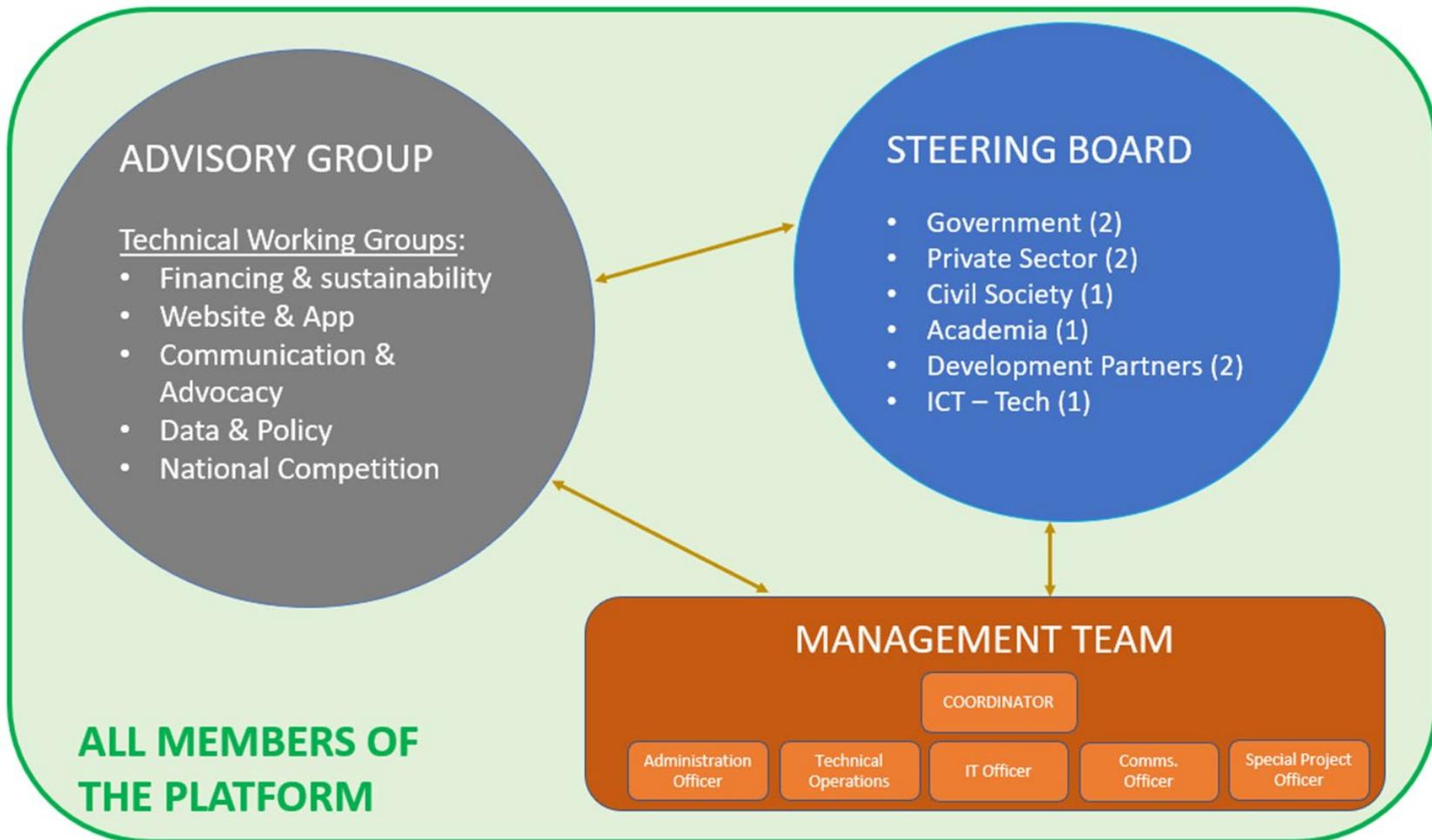
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1. Connecting stakeholders and **improving information flows** for strengthened coordination and collaboration;
2. Providing a space for **engaging citizens** to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle;
3. Making available **scientific-based data** and tools for planning and investment;
4. Facilitating **stronger connections** between the formal and informal sectors;
5. Facilitating **new types of collaborations** between research and private sector for the development and testing of innovative solutions;
6. Demonstrating the economic, social and environmental benefits of **business models for sustainable waste recovery**, triggering further testing of technologies and innovative solutions and their adoption at scale.

Proposed governance structure



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The establishment of the Platform has been a **multi-stakeholder** owned and driven process



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- **Stakeholder engagement** started in June 2018, initiated and facilitated by UNDP.
- Objective: **promote partnerships and access to data/information** for waste recovery
- Ownership **by every actor** with interest in waste management in Ghana.
- Participatory **co-designing process** (5 working groups) to ensure broad ownership, relevance of tools and sustainability.
- **Over 300 stakeholders** have been involved in the process.





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RESULTS SO FAR

(1) As a convening mechanism



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- The Platform has led discussions that contributed to the development of the **National Plastic Management Policy**.
- Its convening mechanism has been utilized by partners to facilitate stakeholder consultations for their operations, e.g. the World Economic Forum for the initiation of Ghana's chapter of the Global Plastic Action Partnership - GPAP (see [article](#)), DFID and Aker Energy.
- New partnerships have been created, e.g. Total and Voltic/Coca Cola have engaged a local start-up for collection of plastic waste with involvement of informal sector.
- Private sector's confidence in investing in waste recovery is increasing thanks to the availability of the Platform to address concerns, provide data and potential partners with experience on the market.

(2) As digital platform

The development of the digital components of the Platform (website, waste resource map, “Uber for Waste” mobile app) is at an advanced stage. Alpha version has been reviewed.



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(3) As promoter of innovation

In partnership with the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP conducted the **‘Waste’ Recovery Innovation Challenge** to provide technical and financial support to 10 innovative business, research and advocacy projects to demonstrate resource recovery opportunities in Ghana.

- Total grants: \$310,000.
- Business advisory support by EY: \$50,000
- See [article](#) and the next two slides to have a look at the winning projects.

WRIC business category



Coliba: Establishing community buy-back centres for plastic waste



Alchemy Alternative Energy: Process plastic waste and waste tyres into fuel



Nelplast: Process plastic waste into pavement slabs and paving tiles



Neat ECO Feeds: Process abattoir waste into compost and maggots for animal feed



West African Feeds: Produce organic fertilizer and BSFL-based animal feed from food waste



Loo Works: Building toilet super-structures with plastic waste

WRIC research category



CSIR IIR: Investigating the possibility of using palm kernel shell and plastic waste as materials for road construction

WRIC advocacy/awareness creation category



A Rocha Ghana: Awareness creation through churches and mosques



Plastic Punch: Creating short drama videos for awareness creation on waste



Environment 360: Mainstreaming circular economy culture in basic schools

(4) As an advocacy tool

- A **communication strategy** has been developed and, through information shared during the Platform's activities, there has been increased awareness on opportunities for waste recovery in Ghana.
- A **social media campaign** was launched on UNDP's online platforms to increase awareness on best waste management practices and opportunities for resource recovery in Ghana.
- A **behavioral insights intervention** was launched by the Accelerator Lab in partnership with Coliba to test innovative ways of promoting recycling in some communities in Accra.



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Resources mobilized

In addition to the technical resources provided by various members of the Platform, financial resources were mobilized with the Embassy of the Netherlands and the Coca Cola Foundation.



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2020 plans

2020 key activities



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- **Convening mechanism:** Organise plenary meetings on the following subjects: data for action; sustainable financing for waste recovery; the role of the informal sector; grassroots innovations in Ghana; and new approaches for behavioural change interventions. Organise International Waste Management Fair.
- **Digital platform:** Launch and operationalise the website and mobile application; undertake trainings for key users of the mobile application and website.
- **Innovation:** Collate and disseminate results achieved by the WRIC 1st edition winners; organise 2nd edition of the Waste Recovery Innovation Challenge.
- **Communication and advocacy:** Implement awareness creation strategy; Undertake one Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) with the UNDP Accelerator Lab on enforcement of sanitation laws.

COVID-19 response (1)



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At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Waste Recovery Platform was convened to discuss the impacts on the waste management ecosystem and how the Platform could be mobilised to support the response (see [article](#)). The following action points were recommended as the issues the Platform should prioritise:

1. Waste collectors (formal and informal)

- Provide PPEs for frontline waste collectors to protect them from COVID-19 infection.
- Create awareness on COVID-19 infection risks and provide specialised training on infectious waste handling.
- Advocate for testing of waste pickers due to their high level of exposure.
- Advocate for high level recognition of sanitation workers - waste picker due to the risky and essential role they play.

2. Environmental service providers

- Advocate for stimulus package for waste management companies (e.g. tax waivers, grants).

3. Household and hotspots

- Create awareness for households in waste segregation at source and proper disposal using various mediums such as private sector organisations, media, community champions.
- Provide PPEs and hand hygiene equipment/materials to people living in hotspot areas.
- Raise awareness on existing local WASH innovations that can be utilised in households at low/no cost.



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4. Policy level interventions

- Advocate for a holistic redesign of waste management system to incorporate emerging issues including generation of infectious waste in homes.
- Advocate for national level policy direction on segregation at source and enforcement of sanitation byelaws.
- Advocate for PPPs to increase availability of waste treatment and recycling facilities across the country - in partnership with local assemblies.
- Advocate for centralized revenue collection and electronic payment for waste management service providers.
- Advocate for efficient management of health care waste among health facilities so that it doesn't come into the municipal waste stream.

5. Research and Innovation

- Research/investigate better ways of handling infectious waste from homes – learning from best practices.
- Promote local innovation.

Launch of Ghana National Plastic Action Partnership

Accra, 1st October, 2019



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"The Ghana Office of UNDP is to be saluted for facilitating the establishment of the 'Waste' Recovery Platform in Ghana. It is a very useful instrument that will enhance stakeholder engagement to support Government and the people of Ghana in our journey to finding sustainable solutions for waste management"

H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo -Addo
President of the Republic of Ghana



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